

# Aberdeenshire Council

## Integrated Impact Assessment

### Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Budget 2025/26

Assessment ID	IIA-002699
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Approved By	Alan Wood
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# 1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

Integrated Impact Assessment for Tackling Poverty & Inequalities and supporting the Child Poverty Action Report and impact of budget savings

Aims of Tackling Poverty & Inequality, Aberdeenshire Principles:

Reducing the number of children/people living in poverty.

Preventing children/people falling into poverty.

Enabling children to live poverty free in adult life.

Improve the well-being of people living in poverty.

During screening 7 of 11 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 3 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Children's Rights and Wellbeing
- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty
- Health Inequalities

In total there are 0 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 11 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated.

A detailed action plan with 1 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by alan.wood@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

## 2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	No
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	Yes
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy impact on inequality of outcome?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy relate to budget proposals?	Yes

## 3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Climate Change and Sustainability	Not Required
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Health Inequalities	All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Town Centre's First	Not Required

## 4. Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

### 4.1. Wellbeing Indicators

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Safe			Yes	
Healthy			Yes	
Achieving			Yes	
Nurtured		Yes		
Active			Yes	
Respected		Yes		
Responsible		Yes		
Included			Yes	

### 4.2. Rights Indicators

<p><b>UNCRC Indicators upheld by this activity / proposal / policy</b></p>	<p>Article 2 - Non-discrimination            Article 3 - Best interests of the child            Article 4 - Protection of rights            Article 12 - Respect for the views of the child            Article 13 - Freedom of expression            Article 18 - Parental responsibilities and state assistance            Article 23 - Children with disabilities            Article 27 - Adequate standard of living            Article 28 - Right to education            Article 30 - Children of minorities / indigenous groups            Article 31 - Leisure, play and culture            Article 42 - Knowledge of rights</p>
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### 4.3. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
<p><b>Achieving</b></p>	<p>Whilst there will still continue to be partnership working with Education and Children's Services to look at Cost of the School Day and the use of Pupil Equity funding to enable equity and inclusion, a reduction in fte will reduce the capacity to do this as frequently with cluster heads and parent councils.</p> <p>Can be mitigated                      Yes</p> <p>Mitigation                      The team will seek to prioritise resources in line with the Child Poverty Action Plan and where consider developing further learning resources to reduce impact.</p> <p>Timescale                      ongoing</p>

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
<b>Active</b>	<p>There will continue to be strategic working with LLA and other health and wellbeing organisations to help support a range of activities to be sustained/developed , informed by children and young people to improve their health &amp; wellbeing, however there will be less funding to support non core service activity and third sector providers.</p> <p>Can be mitigated                      Yes</p> <p>Mitigation                      Partners will work together to use remaining resources efficiently. Where appropriate organisations who may have benefited from direct funding through the Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund will be signposted elsewhere</p> <p>Timescale                      ongoing</p>
<b>Healthy</b>	<p>A reduction in funding will impact the development or sustainability of community projects designed to access to food and skill development relating to shopping, preparation and cooking meals.</p> <p>Can be mitigated                      Yes</p> <p>Mitigation                      Partners will work together to use remaining resources efficiently. Where appropriate organisations who may have benefited from direct funding through the Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund will be signposted elsewhere</p> <p>Timescale                      ongoing</p>
<b>Included</b>	<p>A reduction in budget will potentially impact on work with marginalised groups and community champions to include children and young people in priority groups affected by poverty and those with protected characteristics are not further marginalised.</p> <p>Can be mitigated                      Yes</p> <p>Mitigation                      Partners will work together to use remaining resources efficiently. Where appropriate organisations who may have benefited from direct funding through the Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund will be signposted elsewhere</p> <p>Timescale                      ongoing</p>

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Safe	<p>Working with partners we will continue to seek to develop safe places for young people to go and participate in projects / activities. This has been identified as a gap. A reduction in both funding and fte will limit capacity to focus on this area.</p> <p>Can be mitigated                      Yes</p> <p>Mitigation                      Partners will work together to use remaining resources efficiently. Where appropriate organisations who may have benefited from direct funding through the Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund will be signposted elsewhere.</p> <p>Timescale                      ongoing</p>

#### 4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Lived Experience Forum and Network	The voice of lived experience continues to be embedded across the work of TP&I and it's partners.	Those with lived experience can highlight areas of improvement, inform and co-produce service redesign, policy and practice. The input of those with lived experience, including young people, has been used to develop the Aberdeenshire Child Poverty Action Report and identify priorities for Tackling Poverty & Inequalities.

#### 4.5. Accounting for the Views of Children and Young People

Young people form part of our 'Local Voices' lived experience forum and contribute to discussion about service improvement.

Alongside this our Youth Engagement Worker is supporting youth groups as they develop their Rights based work and participation in projects that are a priority to them.

#### 4.6. Promoting the Wellbeing of Children and Young People

Article 12 - Respect for children's views:

Children have the right to give their opinions freely on issues that affect them. Adults should listen and take children seriously.

We recognise that taking a right's-based approach is key to embedding our practice of working with those with lived experience as partners which will ensure services and activities support young peoples wellbeing.

Tackling Poverty & Inequalities allocate funding to a range of services and third sector partners to ensure children young people and their families have positive outcomes which improve and promote wellbeing. All funded projects take makes safeguarding a priority as part of their practice.

## **4.7. Upholding Children and Young People's Rights**

By embedding Children's Rights into our practice we provide support and promotion of young people's wellbeing through inclusion, participation and the importance of children and young people co-developing services and opportunities which meets their needs.

## **4.8. Overall Outcome**

Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

The children and young peoples' rights and well being implications are likely to help towards closing the inequalities gap and support improved quality of life, which may contribute to children and young people living a poverty free life in adulthood. A reduction in funding may impact on pace of closing the gap.

The Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Partnership will continue to focus on delivering the Child Poverty Action Plan (which supports the Aberdeenshire CPP LOIP priority 'Reducing Poverty) and Services will be ensuring that our service planning, policy, development and delivery reflects the priorities within the Council Plan

## 5. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

### 5.1. Protected Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Age (Younger)		Yes		
Age (Older)		Yes		
Disability		Yes		
Race		Yes		
Religion or Belief		Yes		
Sex		Yes		
Pregnancy and Maternity		Yes		
Sexual Orientation		Yes		
Gender Reassignment		Yes		
Marriage or Civil Partnership		Yes		

### 5.2. Socio-economic Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Low income			Yes	
Low wealth			Yes	
Material deprivation			Yes	
Area deprivation			Yes	
Socioeconomic background			Yes	

### 5.3. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation



Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
<p><b>Area deprivation</b></p>	<p>The Tackling Poverty &amp; Inequalities Strategic Partnership seeks to increase opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment, in particular those living in rural or remote places which result in a 'poverty premium'. A reduction in funding will impact on enabling services (third sector/partners including council) and support to be more inclusive, reduce stigma and improve accessibility for priority families and those that have previously been marginalised by reducing the ability to develop or sustain projects that are designed to enable these outcomes.</p> <p>Can be mitigated                      Yes</p> <p>Mitigation                      The Partnership will work together to use remaining resources efficiently and influence the place plans to reflect outcomes and activity that will help address the local needs of communities and their specific experience of poverty. Where appropriate organisations who may have benefited from direct funding through the Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund to deliver projects and services that are inclusive, reduce stigma and improve accessibility for priority families and those that have previously been marginalised will be signposted elsewhere</p> <p>Timescale                      In line with place plan delivery timelines</p>
<p><b>Low income</b></p>	<p>The Tackling Poverty &amp; Inequalities Strategic Partnership seeks to increase opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment. A reduction in funding will impact on enabling services (third sector/partners including council) and support to be more inclusive, reduce stigma and improve accessibility for priority families and those that have previously been marginalised by reducing the ability to develop or sustain projects that are designed to enable these outcomes.</p> <p>Can be mitigated                      Yes</p> <p>Mitigation                      The Partnership will work together to use remaining resources efficiently. Where appropriate organisations who may have benefited from direct funding through the Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund to deliver projects and services that are inclusive, reduce stigma and improve accessibility for priority families and those that have previously been marginalised will be signposted elsewhere</p> <p>Timescale                      ongoing</p>

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
<p><b>Low wealth</b></p>	<p>The Tackling Poverty &amp; Inequalities Strategic Partnership seeks to increase opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment. A reduction in funding will impact on enabling services (third sector/partners including council) and support to be more inclusive, reduce stigma and improve accessibility for priority families and those that have previously been marginalised by reducing the ability to develop or sustain projects that are designed to enable these outcomes.</p> <p>Can be mitigated                      Yes</p> <p>Mitigation                      The Partnership will work together to use remaining resources efficiently. Where appropriate organisations who may have benefited from direct funding through the Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund to deliver projects and services that are inclusive, reduce stigma and improve accessibility for priority families and those that have previously been marginalised will be signposted elsewhere</p> <p>Timescale                      ongoing</p>
<p><b>Material deprivation</b></p>	<p>The Tackling Poverty &amp; Inequalities Strategic Partnership seeks to increase opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment. A reduction in funding will impact on enabling services (third sector/partners including council) and support to be more inclusive, reduce stigma and improve accessibility for priority families and those that have previously been marginalised by reducing the ability to develop or sustain projects that are designed to enable these outcomes.</p> <p>Can be mitigated                      Yes</p> <p>Mitigation                      The Partnership will work together to use remaining resources efficiently. Where appropriate organisations who may have benefited from direct funding through the Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund to deliver projects and services that are inclusive, reduce stigma and improve accessibility for priority families and those that have previously been marginalised will be signposted elsewhere</p> <p>Timescale                      ongoing</p>

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
<b>Socioeconomic background</b>	<p>The Tackling Poverty &amp; Inequalities Strategic Partnership seeks to increase opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment. A reduction in funding will impact on enabling services (third sector/partners including council) and support to be more inclusive, reduce stigma and improve accessibility for priority families and those that have previously been marginalised by reducing the ability to develop or sustain projects that are designed to enable these outcomes.</p> <p>Can be mitigated                      Yes</p> <p>Mitigation                      The Partnership will work together to use remaining resources efficiently. Where appropriate organisations who may have benefited from direct funding through the Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund to deliver projects and services that are inclusive, reduce stigma and improve accessibility for priority families and those that have previously been marginalised will be signposted elsewhere</p> <p>Timescale                      ongoing</p>

## 5.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Lived experience, service and partner experiences: web page	<a href="https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/our-priorities/tackling-poverty-inequalities/aberdeenshire-lived-experience-network/">https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/our-priorities/tackling-poverty-inequalities/aberdeenshire-lived-experience-network/</a> <a href="https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/hub-page/aberdeenshire-lived-experience-network">https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/hub-page/aberdeenshire-lived-experience-network</a>	This means that we are listening to our services users and our partners to understand how we can do things differently to ensure we can deliver on the Aberdeenshire Principles to tackling poverty & inequalities
Other Evidence	Lived Experience Forum	<p>How we work with lived experience voices in Aberdeenshire</p> <a href="https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/lived-experiences-online-forum/">https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/lived-experiences-online-forum/</a>	That we recognise the importance of hearing from those who have directly experienced poverty or live on low incomes to learn how we can do things better to improve their outcomes.

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Aberdeenshire Lived Experience Network	How important it is for TP&I to work in partnership with internal and external partners across Aberdeenshire. <a href="https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/hub-page/aberdeenshire-lived-experience-network">https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/hub-page/aberdeenshire-lived-experience-network</a>	That we can make our resources work more effectively to deliver outcomes that improve the lives of families and individuals across Aberdeenshire through knowledge of shared practice and expertise. And that we can reach those more marginalised or less heard voices through existing and trusted relationships they have with third sector organisations.

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Over2Youth Event 2024	<p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•270+ Young people have taken part in sessions raising awareness related to poverty &amp; inequalities. More young people therefore are aware of and involved in talking poverty and Inequalities affecting communities.</li> <li>•The findings from this event will inform how we review and focus our priorities and actions for 2024/2025 and change how we work with young people to coproduce services and policies that affect them.</li> <li>• Increase confidence &amp; skills for young people ensuring they are equal partners in service development.</li> <li>•Increase social networks for young people</li> <li>•Young people are more aware of different and/or similar issues within different communities</li> <li>•Young people involved will have the opportunity to gain a SQA level 3 Dynamic Youth award.</li> <li>•Young people are more confident speaking about issues affecting them and their peers</li> <li>•Groups have identified inequalities within their community.</li> <li>•Meet other young people with common interests/goals for their life.</li> <li>•26 youth groups showcasing their findings on their chosen theme relating to youth issues in Aberdeenshire.</li> <li>•Networking opportunities for the organisations</li> <li>•Young people able to see what organisations are in their local area and who can help best with whatever issue they have.</li> </ul>	<p>Those young people that had key roles in developing and delivering the event shared what they thought was the main impacts of their event -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☒ They recognised what can be achieved when they are empowered and supported to work towards something meaningful.</li> <li>☒ They realised that their voices can and will be heard on issues that affect them.</li> <li>☒ They felt a sense of belonging and pride when they wear the Staff t-shirt and carry out the on-the-day jobs. They reported that they felt important and grateful that they could help other young people through their key roles, and they felt they contributed to how well the event went.</li> <li>☒ Meeting other young people who have the same/similar issues and struggles resulted in them feeling less alone</li> <li>☒ They felt confident to challenge discrimination, inequalities, and prejudice and have an increase in confidence.</li> <li>☒ They felt pride that they had organised and delivered a youth event, in their local area, which was completely free, inclusive and accessible to all young people across Aberdeenshire.</li> </ul>

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Consultation	The Unjust cost of living rurally : Response to the Budget Survey	Over the past year the Poverty Alliance have been meeting monthly with Aberdeenshire residents who live on a low income in rural parts of the shire. As part of the panel's work, they took part in the survey on Aberdeenshire Council's budget plans for the next financial year.	Panel members felt that the choices that were being put to them throughout the survey were difficult and all had impacts on people living rurally and on a low income.

## 5.5. Engagement with affected groups

Our Local Voices lived experience forum continues where we ask their views on a range of topics/ issues/ services on a monthly bases.

Using Social media additional weekly engagement has been undertaken.

We have undertaken projects with youth groups, a transport poverty project as well as developing expert panels in relation to Rural Poverty, supported by the Poverty Alliance and a Cash First panel to look at developing pathways to support a Cash First approach.

## 5.6. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

Local Voices membership reflects those families with protected characteristics.

Through partnership work with those who support marginalised groups and through community champions supporting these communities.

## 5.7. Evidence of engagement

The Child Poverty Local Action Report (year 6) <https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/child-poverty-local-action-report2023-24.pdf>

In partnership with our lived experience forum and network we have developed a Lived Experience Framework: <https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Lived-Experience-Framework-Final-Version-1.pdf>

## 5.8. Overall Outcome

Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

Access to funding and expertise is critical to ensure reducing poverty can be the responsibility of all council services as well as the wider Community Planning Partnership.

The Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Strategic Partnership will continue to focus on tackling the root causes of poverty and building people's capabilities through income maximisation, employability and promoting positive life chances and use all resources available to support services and opportunities that improve the live chances of those most vulnerable in Aberdeenshire. Where possible, community groups, third sector organisations and partners will be signposted to support (funding or advice/guidance) through other sources. However it is acknowledged that alternative funding streams are also reducing.

## **5.9. Improving Relations**

Ensure that the Lived Experience continues to reflect those target groups outlined the Scottish Government's Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022 – 26 Best Start Bright Futures

Continue to build on the partnership work which has been developed around this area.

Report progress to Area Committees, Policy Committees and Health & Social Care Partnership.

Highlight good practice at a local and national level

## **5.10. Opportunities of Equality**

The approach to tackling poverty & inequalities focusses on early intervention and prevention – tackling the root causes of poverty and building people's capabilities through income maximisation, employability and promoting positive life chances.

Accessing appropriate services and opportunities will contribute to reducing child poverty, social justice, support housing first principles, reducing homelessness and reducing inequalities across Aberdeenshire.

Through identifying and addressing the barriers faced by those who are at risk of poverty or living in poverty should result in a reduction of inequalities

## 6. Health Inequalities Impact Assessment

### 6.1. Health Behaviours

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Healthy eating			Yes	
Exercise and physical activity		Yes		
Substance use – tobacco		Yes		
Substance use – alcohol		Yes		
Substance use – drugs		Yes		
Mental health		Yes		

### 6.2. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Healthy eating	<p>Fair Food Aberdeenshire (FFA) was established in response to the development of the Aberdeenshire Food Strategy. This Tackling Poverty &amp; Inequalities Strategic Partnership group is a cross-sector partnership with representatives from public, private and community sectors which is developing a holistic approach on tackling a range of food related issues which can impact on food security for families and households. The strategy ensures partners are working towards everyone can have access to affordable, healthy food that benefits the communities, the local economy and the environment. This funding supports the work of the partnership to achieve this and capacity/pace of development and delivery will be reduced.</p> <p>Can be mitigated                      Yes</p> <p>Mitigation                      Partners will work together to use remaining resources efficiently. Where appropriate organisations who may have benefited from direct funding through the Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund will be signposted elsewhere</p> <p>Timescale                      ongoing</p>

### 6.3. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Mind Yer Mind campaign	Through our Community Planning Partnership we have access to resources such as the Mind Yer Mind campaign: <a href="https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/news-and-events/mind-yer-mind-campaign/">https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/news-and-events/mind-yer-mind-campaign/</a>	This means we can access resources to share with our priority groups



Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Child Poverty Action Plan - <a href="https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Child-poverty-action-plan-progress-up-date-Aug23.pdf">https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Child-poverty-action-plan-progress-up-date-Aug23.pdf</a>	<p>Outlines what we need to do to provide services and support to those who have had their mental health further impacted.</p> <p>We know there is increased stress and worry that living on a low income brings and deterioration of people's mental health.</p> <p>There had been significant increase in mental health and anxiety because of the pandemic which is being exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis, particular for young people and their families.</p>	Through raising awareness and new opportunities people's wellbeing will improve.

## 6.4. Overall Outcome

All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

The Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Partnership will support the work of the Health Eating, Active Living (HEAL) Partnership.

## 7. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details
To continue to develop and deliver the Child Poverty Action Plan	<p><b>Lead Officer</b> Annette Johnston</p> <p><b>Repeating Activity</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Frequency</b> Ongoing</p> <p><b>Duration</b> 2022-2026</p> <p><b>Expected Outcome</b> The intention of this Action Plan is to improve outcomes for all families living in poverty or at risk of living in poverty, but the key emphasis will be supporting families where the risk of children living in poverty is highest. To this end the Aberdeenshire Child Poverty Action Plan will focus on the needs of 'priority families' who are at high risk of poverty</p> <p><b>Resource Implications</b> Will continue to deliver within existing resources however actions will be reviewed, particularly timelines associated with actions, to take account of reduced funding and officer time.</p>